

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-14, with claims 1-3, 11 and 12 being independent. Claim 1 has been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-14 have been amended as to formal matters only; no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kanbe (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,562). Claims 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Tamano (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,042) in view of Kanbe. Claims 3-5, 7-10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,510) in view of Kanbe. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In fact, Applicants submit that Kanbe is not even prior art to the present invention. The present invention is entitled at least to an invention date of September 9, 1999, the date on which the first priority application for the present case was filed. Hence, Kanbe, filed on October 5, 1999, was not filed before the present invention was invented by the Applicants. In this regard, included with this response are certified translations of each of the priority applications - 255007/1999 and 273878/1999. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection based upon Kanbe.

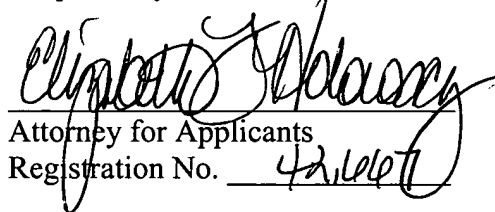
In addition, Tamano and Hanna are cited only in combination with Kanbe. Both Tamano and Hanna are recognized by the Examiner as lacking at least one of the key features of the present invention, namely a conductive liquid crystal which has a π -resonance structure plane aligned parallel with electrode substrates. Accordingly, without

a reference such as Kanbe to remedy the deficiencies of Tamano and/or Hanna, the §103 rejections are flawed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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